

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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SUBJECT: EC-GREECE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 3512, B) EC BRUSSELS 3447

1. THE MONTHLY ROUND OF EC-GREECE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL WAS HELD IN BRUSSELS MAY 4. THE MISSION HAS LEARNED FROM EC COMMISSION AND GREEK MISSING OFFICIALS THAT THE MAIN BUSINESS OF THE MEETING WAS:

(A) GREEK PRESENTATION OF A PAPER ON SOCIAL POLICY DISCUSSING SUCH QUESTIONS AS SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS, PENSION RIGHTS, ETC. FOR GREEK WORKERS WHEN GREECE JOINS THE COMMUNITY; AND (B) COMMUNITY COMMENTS ON THE PAPER GREECE SUBMITTED IN EARLY APRIL REGARDING GREEK ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY (EC BRUSSELS 3512).

2. OFFICIALS WITH THOM WE SPOKE INDICATE THAT DURING THIS FIRST PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS DEVOTED TO LAYING OUT
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INITIAL POSITIONS AND IDENTIFYING PROBLEM AREAS, THE GREEKS ARE EXPECTED TO PRESENT AT LEAST ONE MORE SUBSTANTIVE PAPER--ON THE RIGHT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF ENTERPRISES IN GREECE AND MOVEMENTS OF CAPITAL--AND MAY ALSO PRESENT PAPERS ON GREEK ACCESSION TO EURATOM AND GREEK PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS.

3. IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS, THE COMMUNITY HAS REGULARLY BEEN PROVIDING ITS PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON THE GREEK SUBMISSIONS. HOWEVER, WE ARE TOLD THAT THE EC STILL HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO COMMENT, ON THE FAIRLY GENERAL PAPER THE GREEKS SUBMITTED ON AGRICULTURE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO BECAUSE OF ITALIAN RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS UNTIL THE EC COUNCIL FACES UP TO THE ITALIAN DEMAND THAT THE GOI BE COMPENSATED FOR THE DISADVANTAGES ALLEGEDLY BEING SUFFERED BY ITS AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AS A RESULT OF THE COMMUNITY'S GLOBAL MEDITERRANEAN POLICY. COMMISSION OFFICIALS HOPE, NEVERTHELESS, THAT COMMUNITY NEGOTIATORS WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME COMMENT ON AGRICULTURE IN THE GREEK NEGOTIATIONS IN EITHER THE JUNE OR JULY NEGOTIATING SESSION.

4. COMMISSION OFFICIALS TOLD US THAT WHILE TO DATE NEGOTIATIONS SEEM TO BE PROCEEDING PRETTY MUCH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCHEDULE AGREED TO BY THE EC AND GREECE LAST DECEMBER, THE INHERENT DIFFICULTY OF THE AGRICULTURAL PORTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF ITALIAN AND FRENCH CONCERNS ABOUT LATER ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH PORTUGAL AND SPAIN, INCLINES THEM TOWARD THE VIEW THAT THE GREEK ACCESSION TALKS WILL DRAG ON WELL INTO 1978. THEY SPECULATED THAT THE AGRICULTURAL ASPECT OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT, IN ANY CASE, BE RESOLVED UNTIL WELL AFTER THE FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SPRING OF 1978.

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5. IN DISCUSSING THE NEGOTIATING PACE WITH AN OFFICIAL OF THE GREEK MISSION TO THE EC, THE LATTER SAID THAT WHILE THE GREEKS HAVE, SINCE THE NEGOTIATIONS FIRST STARTED, REPEATEDLY ASKED FOR A FASTER PACE TO THE TALKS AS A TACTIC FOR KEEPING THE PRESSURE ON THE COMMUNITY, WITHIN THE LAST TWO WEEKS ATHENS AND THE GREEK MISSION HERE HAVE THEMSELVES COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE SLOWING DOWN AS A RESULT OF FRENCH-ITALIAN CONCERNS ON THE AGRICULTURAL FRONT. GREEK MISSION OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY IS HOLDING OUT PROMISE OF PROGRESS ON AGRICULTURAL ISSUES THIS AUTUMN WHEN THE COMMUNITY ADDRESSES THE AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROBLEM IN ITS BROADER MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT, BUT THAT HE FEARS A LONG AND INVOLVED PROCESS. THIS OFFICIAL SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY HAS COME TO DOUBT THAT THE EC-GREEK NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CONCLUDED PRIOR TO GREEK PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE AUTUMN OF NEXT YEAR. HINTON

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